

Possible Junior High Options for SJB

Band – provides students the opportunity to continue developing their instrumental and musical skills through ensemble performances. Students refine their technique, learn more advanced musical concepts, and build confidence as they prepare for concerts and festivals.

Skills students will develop:

- Instrumental proficiency and ensemble performance
- Music literacy (notation, rhythm, dynamics)
- Listening and tuning skills
- Practice strategies, discipline, and goal setting
- Confidence and teamwork through public performance

Jazz Band – The Grade 8 and 9 Jazz Band is an extension of the instrumental music program, designed for students who wish to broaden their musical experience through jazz performance. Open to students with previous band experience, this ensemble explores jazz genres such as swing, Latin, blues, funk, and rock. The course emphasizes both ensemble playing and individual skill development, with a particular focus on improvisation and stylistic interpretation.

Skills students will develop:

- Develop tone, articulation, and technique specific to jazz styles
- Understand and execute jazz phrasing, swing rhythms, and syncopation
- Play with appropriate style in various jazz genres (e.g., swing, Latin, funk, ballads).
- Demonstrate ensemble skills including balance, blend, intonation, and following a conductor

- Identify key jazz forms and structures (e.g., head-solo-head, AABA).
- Recognize and interpret jazz articulations and symbols in sheet music (e.g., falls, scoops, ghost notes)

Construction - students design and build hands-on projects using a variety of tools and materials such as wood and basic hardware. As students' progress, they take on more complex builds, work more independently, and develop a deeper understanding of planning and problem-solving in a workshop environment.

Skills students will develop:

- Safe and effective use of hand and power tools
- Reading and interpreting construction plans
- Measurement, precision, and technical accuracy
- Project design, planning, and problem-solving
- Workshop safety, teamwork, and responsibility

Foods - In the Foods option, students gain practical skills in cooking, baking, and nutrition. They explore food safety, kitchen techniques, and meal planning, with opportunities to work both independently and in teams. Over time, students tackle more challenging recipes and explore how food choices affect health and well-being.

Skills students will develop:

- Cooking and baking techniques
- Safe and sanitary food handling practices
- Nutrition awareness and balanced meal planning
- Time management and kitchen organization
- Collaboration, creativity, and culinary presentation

Art – provides students with a space to explore creativity and visual expression using a variety of media and techniques. Through drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media, students build technical skills while also learning to interpret and reflect on their own work and that of others.

Skills students will develop:

- Advanced techniques in 2D and 3D art
- Visual storytelling and creative risk-taking
- Understanding of elements and principles of design
- Critical thinking and reflection through art critique
- Cultural appreciation and personal expression

Film Studies – Film Studies allows students to explore storytelling through the lens of film. They examine cinematic techniques, film genres, and visual storytelling while learning how to analyze and create their own short video projects.

Skills students will develop:

- Film analysis and critique
- Scriptwriting and storyboarding
- Camera work and video editing
- Creative direction and media literacy
- Collaboration and project management

Recreational Leadership – Recreational Leadership develops students' leadership and organizational skills through planning and leading recreational activities. Students explore teamwork, communication, and the qualities of effective leaders while organizing games, events, and activities for others.

Skills students will develop:

- Leadership and team-building strategies
- Event and activity planning
- Communication and conflict resolution
- Responsibility, organization, and initiative

Drama – Drama is an engaging and interactive course that builds confidence, creativity, and communication skills. Students will explore a variety of theatrical activities including improvisation, role-play, script work, and performance. This is a great option for students who enjoy expressing themselves and working collaboratively.

Skills Developed:

- Verbal and non-verbal communication
- Creative expression through voice and movement
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Improvisation and problem-solving
- Confidence in public speaking and performance
- Script interpretation and character development

Ceramics – Ceramics allows students to explore the art of working with clay. Students will learn foundational techniques such as hand-building, sculpting, and glazing. They will create both functional and decorative pieces while developing their artistic voice.

Skills Developed:

- Clay construction techniques (pinch, coil, slab)
- Surface design and glazing
- Creativity and visual expression
- Fine motor skills and attention to detail
- Planning and executing three-dimensional projects

- Studio safety and proper use of tools and materials

Fashion Studies – Fashion Studies introduces students to the world of clothing, design, and personal style. Students will learn basic sewing skills, how to use a sewing machine, and how to follow simple patterns. Projects may include making clothing items, accessories, or upcycled fashion.

Skills Developed:

- Hand and machine sewing techniques
- Pattern reading and layout
- Fabric selection and care
- Design thinking and creativity
- Project planning and time management
- Safe use of sewing tools and equipment